Forest Service Cherokee National Forest Ocoee/Hiwassee Ranger District 3171 Highway 64 East Benton, TN 37307

File Code: 1950-1

Date: March 20, 2006March 17,

2006

The Cherokee National Forest is considering whether to provide a special use permit to the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), which is proposing to replace the existing transmission line between the Ocoee #2 and Ocoee #3 powerhouses. TVA and the Cherokee National Forest will prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) on the proposed transmission line which will be used in deciding whether to issue the permit. Enclosed is a copy of a document explaining the purpose and need for the new transmission line and alternatives presently being considered for analysis in the EA.

We invite your comments on the proposed project. In accordance with 36 CFR 215.6(a) (3), individuals or organizations wishing to be eligible to appeal the decision to issue the permit must provide the following information:

- 1. Your name and physical address.
- 2. Title of the Proposed Action.
- 3. Specific substantive comments (as explained in 36 CFR 215.2) on the proposed action, along with supporting reasons that the Responsible Official should consider in reaching a decision.
- 4. Your signature or other means of identification verification must be provided for the individual authorized to represent your organization.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on the proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments must be postmarked or received within 30 days beginning the day after publication of the legal notice in the *Knoxville News Sentinel*.

Comments may be sent to the Cherokee National Forest or TVA. The contact for the National Forest is Janan Hay, Tellico Ranger District, 250 Ranger Station Road, Tellico Plains, TN 37385, 423-253-2804 fax, 423-253-8400 phone. Additional information may be obtained at this address. Oral or hand-delivered comments must be received within normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Comments may be mailed electronically to: comments-southern-cherokee-tellico@fs.fed.us. Please identify the project name as Ocoee 2-3 TL Replacement in the subject line when providing electronic comments.

The contact for TVA is Peter K. Scheffler, TVA NEPA Administration, 400 West Summit Hill Drive, Knoxville, TN 37902, 865-632-6855 fax, 865-632-8040 phone. Additional information may be obtained at this address. Oral or hand-delivered comments must be received within TVA normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Comments may be mailed electronically to: pkscheffler@tva.gov. Please identify the project as Ocoee 2-3 TL Replacement in the subject line when providing electronic comments.





I appreciate your continued support and interest in the Cherokee National Forest.

Sincerely,

/s/ Monte L. Williams MONTE L. WILLIAMS District Ranger